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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/542,977

12/21/2005

Ludovic Bertrand

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EXAMINER

WILL, THOMAS B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3671

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/542,977	Applicant(s) BERTRAND ET AL.	
	Examiner Alexandra K. Pechhold	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/23/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1-5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jenkins (US 4,602,399).**

Regarding claim 1, Jenkins discloses a system to lay a bridge between two banks, wherein said system firstly comprises a bridge carrying vehicle (seen as vehicle 14) constituted by a remote-controlled self-propelled platform (seen as trailer 10, the remote control operation coming from the vehicle 14 as disclosed in column 7, lines 13-25 and column 2, lines 58-60) incorporating means to deploy and retract said bridge (the bridge launching disclosed in column 9, lines 60-68 and column 10, lines 1-51 and the bridge retrieving disclosed in column 10, lines 52-68 and column 11, lines 1-11), the platform being unmanned and armor-free (as inferred from the figures), and secondly a control post comprising means to communicate with said platform (disclosed as the electrical cords connected with vehicle 14 so that electrical control signals from the vehicle 14 may be used to control the trailer 10 functions as disclosed in column 7, lines 13-25).

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Regarding claim 2, Jenkins discloses the platform as equipped with an engine ensuring its autonomy over any terrain at a distance from said control post (see disclosure of air cooled diesel internal combustion engine in column 7, lines 26-35).

Regarding claim 3, Jenkins discloses a diesel engine in column 7, line 30.

Regarding claim 4, Jenkins illustrates in Fig. 4 the platform as being of the wheeled type (see wheels 58L, R, and see column 8, line 33).

Regarding claim 5, Jenkins discloses that the platform incorporates means to receive and raise said bridge (as evidenced by the launching position in Fig. 4, the platform having received the bridge and actuators raising the bridge).

Regarding claim 9, Jenkins discloses that the platform (seen as trailer 10) is towed by the vehicle (seen as tow vehicle 14) to the site said bridge is to be deployed, since the invention is described as a bridge transporting and launching trailer and the tow vehicle tows the trailer (10) with bridge (12) (see column 6, lines 57-64 and column 2, lines 36-45).

Regarding claim 10, Jenkins discloses the limitation of the control post being located in an armored vehicle or technical shelter, since Jenkins discloses in column 9, lines 36-45 that towing vehicle (14) could be an armored vehicle or tank.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins (US 4,602,399) as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Dix (US 3,811,147).**

Regarding claim 6, Jenkins fails to disclose the platform as comprising control means able to be actuated at a distance from said control post. Dix teaches a mobile roadway repair unit (12) having repair equipment house therein that is operated from a remote control unit (22) positioned a distance from the repair unit (12), with equipment operators positioned in the remote control unit (22) to observe the repair which is viewed by TV cameras located in the repair module unit (12) (column 2, lines 6-16 and column 4, lines 25-44). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the platform (seen as trailer 10) of Jenkins to have control means able to be actuated at a distance from the control post (seen as the vehicle 14 to which the electrical control cords extend) as taught by Dix, since Dix states in column 2, lines 6-16 and column 4, lines 25-44 that an operation can be actuated by an operator at a remote location so that the operator does not have to be physically present at the actual equipment operation, thus inherently not endangering the operator(s) as much as if they were located at the site of operations.

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Regarding claim 7, Jenkins discloses that electric control cords allow the various functions of the trailer (10) to be controlled by electrical control signals from the vehicle (14) (column 7, lines 13-25). The Examiner is assuming that since Jenkins discloses remote electrical control of the various functions of the trailer, this includes steering of the movement of the trailer to control the movement of the bridge thereon in terms of deploying or retracting the bridge.

Regarding claim 8, the communication means of Jenkins can be considered as fixed, since Jenkins discloses the use of electric control cords to control the functions of the trailer (column 7, lines 13-25).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexandra Pechhold whose telephone number is (571) 272-6994. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs. from 8:00am to 5:30pm and alternating Fridays from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached on (571) 272-6998. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.


Alexandra Pechhold
Patent Examiner
Group 3600

AKP
4/27/06